

House News

Georgia House of Representatives

August
2005

Back to School!



Butterflies, Birds and Bass- Oh My!!!

Or should I say lunchboxes, notebooks and pencils? With the school year revving back up, we thought that this would be the perfect time to launch the Speaker's new House Kids Website!! We've devoted a lot of time and effort into the formation of three different educational pages based on age and grade level.

We've created elementary, middle and high school pages to help teach Georgia's students about their state government. We've loaded each page up with age-appropriate information covering such topics as how a bill becomes a law, Georgia's State Symbols, a great deal of Capitol and Legislative history as well as games and trivia! It is our hope that by providing a fun way of learning about State Government, we will be able to generate more interest in the happenings under the Gold Dome to a younger population- an interest that will carry over into later years.

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These pages are a work in progress so to speak, so be on the look out for new things to pop-up online!! We're hoping to follow these up with other pages for college students, teachers, the general public and one for our senior citizens.

Please send us any suggestions that you have- we would absolutely love to hear what you think!!! (jburke@legis.state.ga.us)

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To view the website, go under the section for the public and select the particular page you would like to view.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

august



Jena Davis	1st
Sheila Raney	4th
Spence Lee	7th
Elaine Myers	7th
Linda Marwede	15th
Ailie Olson	23rd
Cathy Barnette	25th
Debbie Lynn	29th
Dona Woodham	29th

Change your thoughts and you change your world.

Norman Vincent Peale (1898 - 1993)

From the Chief-of-Staff

Schools In at the Capitol

As summer's end nears and kids head back to class, some exciting changes are taking place around the Capitol. I am sure that many of you have noticed the increased activity and heard the buzz about technology updates and modernizations that are now finally underway. For years, technology has begun to touch more areas of our lives from MP3 players, cell phones, PDAs and high definition television. It wasn't long either that personal computers were a rarity but now schools are handing out laptops to students. And so the time is here for these technological improvements to be integrated into our work at the Capitol. In order to make these improvements a huge success though we must all learn how to use this technology effectively and efficiently. School will be in session for all Capitol employees the week of October 3-7 so that everyone can learn how to make the most of the technology that has become a part of our daily lives. So sharpen your pencils and don't be late to class!

I'll see you at the front of the class,



Employee Spotlight!

Candice Blackwell Secretary – Hawks

Have you ever wondered who you could call when there isn't a Doctor in the Capitol? While I don't recommend hiking up several flights stairs when you're in need of medical assistance, you could call Room 401-J in the Capitol. With thirty years of experience as a surgical assistant in Athens, GA, Candice Blackwell may just be your best bet (even though she went to school in Florida, we won't hold that against her). An avid golf fan and self proclaimed political junkie, Candice is a women after my own heart.

Five years ago, enticed by her cousin who worked in the Senate, Candice came to the House, and was thrown to the wolves just two days before the 2001 session in an eight member suite. "It was either sink or swim, and I was determined to swim," said Candice. She has certainly kept her head above water, and has quickly become one of the most respected secretaries on staff. It is that respect that she considers the highlight of her time here in the House. "When Rep. Reece and Graves thought enough of my work to bring me across the street with

them, that was probably the most proud moment in this second career." Candice went on to say, "It's not a question of where you work, but who you work for, and I definitely enjoy my guys."

So what does the future hold in store for Candice, I would like to think that it would include a house on the beach (but not Florida again), a golf course near by, and C-SPAN on the television. However, she seems to be focused on her current job, and the forward progression of the House. "I am not one to pick things apart, and I like the forward progression the leadership is showing to the staff. Their concerted effort to open up and bring the House together has me thinking that I'll finish out my working years here," said the political junkie. I know that we all hope she does.

- Brent Cranfield



**CAN YOU
GUESS
WHO
THIS IS?**

The back page will tell you who it is!

Check this out!



Jay and Mary were married on
June 11, 2005
in Dahlonega, Georgia

Congratulations Jay and Mary!!

Congratulations to
Riley and Peg!!
They were married
on August 5th in
Costa Rica!



Words of Wisdom...

DIANA LYNN
Administrative Assistant
607 COB

With more than 25 years of experience, Diana has truly had a historic career with the House. Beginning in 1978, she joined the steno pool for her first session after her next door neighbor, Vickie Bell, convinced her to take the job. The next year she was hired by the Appropriations Chairman, Joe Frank Harris as part-time staff. Diana spent her first fulltime job here at the Capitol splitting time as secretary for Harris and Marcus Collins, then Ways and Means Chairman.

With the election of Harris as Governor, Diana went to work for Larry Walker who was selected as Floor Leader for Governor Harris. Diana spent four years in that office, and then 16 more working for Rep. Walker as Majority Leader, and the two following years for Jimmy Skipper as Majority Leader. Born and raised in Texas, Diana has worked for some of the most influential officials this state has seen in the last quarter century, and has highest praises for each and every one. "I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to work with such nice people, and well-respected public servants". I've always strived to be someone who was loyal, and was known to be trustworthy. Many people have come and gone over these 25 years, but they've each added to the "specialness" of this place. I believe it's important to look for the positives in everyone. The mother of three sons, who are her proudest accomplishments, the youngest to be married next month, Diana exhibits the trustworthiness that will help all of us shine under the Gold Dome.

- Brent Cranfield

A Fresh Face...

Jackie Rowe
Administrative Assistant
Room 404 COB

'Wrong Place, Right Time!' That is how Jackie Rowe's start with the Georgia House took place. While looking for a job with the Atlanta/Fulton County City Hall, Jackie just happened to stop by the Capitol with a resume in hand. A week later, she had an interview, and within weeks joined what I like to think is a much better group of people to work with.

A native Georgian, Jackie lives in Fairburn where she spends her spare time raising her three children. Before walking into the wrong building, Jackie worked as customer support and administrative service for a small mortgage company in Atlanta. This past spring, the company closed down, and luckily for us, Jackie didn't just take the first job that came around. I think that her patience paid off.

"So far, the Georgia House has been a great place to work. The people have been very helpful in showing me the ropes," said Jackie. "I was hoping to find a job that would allow me to continue to raise my children the best I can, and also find a sense of family at work." To Jackie, let me be one of the first to say, Welcome to the Family.

- Brent Cranfield

SECU wants to help you get your finances organized!

Do you like to keep copies of your checks for your financial records? By signing up for our CD ROM Check Imaging Service, you can purchase a CD containing the images of all your checks for 2005, as well as the software you need to view them.

The cost for this service is just \$14 per CD (one CD per account number), and the CD will be mailed directly to your home.

In order to receive the full year's worth of check images, you need to sign up by December 1, 2005. All CDs will be produced and mailed in January 2006.

Not yet a member of State Employees Credit Union? Call 1-800-659-7328 for details on the many benefits of credit union membership!



Don't forget!!

Computer training will be held the week of October 3rd-7th. These training classes will be very beneficial to us all. We will be learning Microsoft software such as Word, and Access.

Educate yourself!

Since this is our “back-to-school” issue it is a good time to take a look at the Microsoft website. Microsoft.com has great tutorials for all of their programs. Our computer training classes are the week of October 3rd - 7th so this is the perfect time to go on the website and get a feel of what you will be working with.

Go to the website (<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training/default.aspx>) and click on the category you want to look at. Follow the online instructions. They are very helpful and walk you through every step. The links also have some templates that can be downloaded.

Make sure you check out Outlook. It is a great email program that I am sure you are all going to love! Learning to do a mail merge in Word will help with constituent let-

ters, labels, envelopes, etc. I could not live without that feature.

The computer training classes will be much more beneficial to you if you can at least feel your way around before you go into them.

Have fun - download some of the templates and learn how to do math in Word!!

I used to be a WordPerfect fan until I learned how to use Word. It is so easy to go from Access to Word or from Excel to Word. You can build databases (or use mine off of the website) to create merge letters.

I look forward to seeing you all in computer training and all of you knowing what they are talking about because you have gone on the Microsoft website and learned about the programs!

- Ging McKinney

- Gina McKinney

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Sharone
Carpenter
is the little
one!



We're on the Web!

www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/index.htm